

# The Brethren Evangelist,

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A. D. GNAGEY, : : Editor.

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## Editorial.

### DOES NOT MATTER.

The doctrine that it does not matter what a man believes, if only one is sincere in what he believes, is a pernicious doctrine. There are would-be religious teachers who make a man's conscience, rather than the word of God his guide. It still remains true that the more sincere one is in believing an error, the worse it is for him. We consider that a dangerous doctrine which makes ones prejudices, early training, likes or dislikes, the basis or ground of his faith. Sometime ago an earnest inquirer asked the editor of the *Christian Herald* whether he would advise a candidate for baptism to be sprinkled or immersed, and also which is the mode of baptism enjoined in the New Testament. The editor's answer is an evasion of the whole question, and furnishes little or no information. Indeed, we wonder if the *Herald's* inquirer was not more confused than instructed. Here is the answer:

"If there was any mode enjoined in the New Testament, that would settle the whole question. No Christian would be guilty of disobedience even in the most trivial matter, if there was a clear direction. You should clearly understand that Christian ministers who use the mode of immersion and those who sprinkle are both perfectly conscientious in their conduct. We cannot give advice in the matter, except to say that if any person comes to the conclusion that it is his duty to go through the ceremony of immersion, he should do so. It becomes to him a matter of conscience, but he should be willing that other people should have the same liberty, and should not pass judgment upon them if they cannot see the same importance in the ceremony that he does."

CAN you not use a few more Quarterlies in your school? We have an abundance left and shall gladly supply you. See whether you cannot find a place for 50 cents worth more.

### SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT.

On page 15 of this issue will be found the special announcement of Prof. J. Allen Miller's forth-coming book. The book will contain three lectures, as follows:

*First Lecture*:—The Time of the Christ.

*Second Lecture*:—The Authority of the Bible.

*Third Lecture*:—How to Interpret the Bible.

This book will be a very valuable addition to the literature of the Brethren church and it is to be hoped that the plan proposed in the announcement will receive sufficient encouragement to insure its publication. If you desire a copy of the book, fill the blank space at the bottom of page 15, cut out and send to us. We should have at least 150 pledges before undertaking the publication of these lectures.

There is perhaps no other one thing that the Brethren church stands more in need of at this period of its history, than a good, substantial, creditable literature. Among human agencies, there is no greater power for good than literature. It becomes the duty of the church to avail itself of every opportunity to increase this agency for good. Send in your subscription at once for this new work, and thus aid in strengthening the literature of the Brethren church. You are not asked for a donation; the book we offer you for 25 cents, will be worth 50 cents. Prof. Miller has given much time and thought to the subject matter of this work and you will find your 25 cents well invested. We await your orders.

### THE CHURCH PAPER.

An exchange has the following to say on the nature and scope of a church paper, all of which we heartily endorse:

The church newspaper is not a personal organ. It is to represent the denomination for which it stands. And yet such a paper, like other papers, cannot be wholly divested from the personal characteristics of its editors. Their utterances, while representing a denomination are at the same time largely personal, or rather individual. Some people feel that an editor should never say anything that does not agree with their opinions, and so they are ready to discontinue a paper whenever it contains anything they do not approve. Horace Greeley once had a friend of this class. He became offended at one of Mr.

Greeley's articles in the Tribune, and went to the office to stop his subscription. Later in the day, as the story goes, the disgruntled subscriber met the editor and said: "Mr. Greeley, I've stopped your paper." "Have you?" queried Horace, adding, "Well, that's too bad!" and the old white hat went its way. The next morning Greeley encountered his former subscriber again, and accosted him with, "I thought you stopped the Tribune!" "So I did." "Then there must be some mistake," replied Horace; "for I just came from the office, and when I left the presses were running as usual, the clerks were busy as ever, the compositors were hard at work, and the business was going on the same as yesterday and the day before." "Oh!" ejaculated the old subscriber, "I didn't mean that I had stopped the paper. I stopped only my copy of it, because I didn't like one of your editorials." "Pshaw!" retorted Greeley, "it wasn't worth taking up my time to tell me such a trifle as that. My dear sir, if you expect to control the utterances of the Tribune by the purchase of one copy a day, or if you think to find any newspaper worth reading that will never express convictions at right angles with your own, you are doomed to disappointment. The Tribune would not be deserving of respect if it could be coerced by the threat of the loss of one subscriber, or a hundred, or ten thousand, or every one it has, to refrain from telling the truth as it sees it. My friend, this is a free country, and the man who does not give freedom of opinion to others does not deserve it himself. Good-by." The course pursued by the great Tribune editor could be pursued now to good advantage with some self opinionated readers of religious newspapers.

### SOME DON'TS FOR THE PULPIT.

Last week we published extracts from an address delivered by a bishop of the M. E. church, South, to young men who were candidates for ordination to the Christian ministry in that church. The following from Rev. Stephen A. Northrup, is good advice to ministers of the Gospel, and we believe will be helpful to ministers of the Brethren church as well as other denominations:

Don't exaggerate.

Don't fool with doubts.

Don't let success tip you over.

Don't dabble in business ventures.

Don't snub anybody—even a book agent.

Don't get the dumps. Live in the sunshine.